MARVEL ZOMBIES HALLOWEEN

Written by Fred Van Lente /

ONE

Panel 1: CLOSE UP: The top of a zombie's head gets BLOWN OFF.

1. SFX (BIG): ***TOOOM***

Panel 2: PULL BACK: As that zombie falls to the ground, two more on either side of it are similarly decapitated by a high-caliber round.

2. SFX: ***TOOOM***

3. SFX: ***TOOOM***

Panel 3: PULL BACK: The trio of zombies drop, adding to the RING OF CORPSES piled almost waist-high in the front lawn of a suburban house.

4. SFX: ***whud whuddd***

Panel 4: AERIAL SHOT: We now see the lawn of that house, and the ring surrounding it. The house is a big old New England colonial mansion -- the kind haunted houses are regularly made of:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:The_Haunted_Mansion.jpg

(Note the greenhouse/solarium on one side. That's important.)

Alessandro, keep in mind in the world of *Marvel Zombies,* that the undead eat EVERYTHING LIVING -- including trees and grass, so there won't be any of that around the house. At best, a bunch of depressing, stunted trees, limbs stripped of leaves and bark.

NO COPY

Panel 5: Inside the cupola -- that's that round thing with the weathervane at top -- MOM, a lithe, Linda Hamilton type, about 42, with a pony tail of curly brown hair, peers through the sight of a massive .50 caliber sniper rifle, the BARRET M107:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZdmc-iRARs&feature=related and
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvBiH8U5OuY&feature=related

5. PETER (DOWN): Mom?

6. PETER (DOWN: ***Mom?***

TWO

Panel 1: ANGLE DOWN: PETER, 7, Son of Mom, looks up apprehensively from the bottom of the stairs leading to the (off-panel) cupola hatch.

1. PETER: I think there's something in the walls.

Panel 2: Mom descends the stairs and switches guns to a COMBAT SHOTGUN. She makes Peter stand behind her while she goes over to one of the walls. http://www.gizmag.com/aa-12-combat-shotgun-frag-12-automatic/11393/picture/74152/

2. MOM: Weren't you watching the monitors?

3. PETER: I ***was!***

Panel 3: Angle on cheap green (light enhancement) monitors on one side of the room. On one a zombie has been caught in a BEAR TRAP, flailing his arms uselessly, moaning.

4. ZOMBIE (j): *Rrrrnnnnhhhhhhh*

5. PETER (OFF): Nothing got through! I woulda seen it!

Panel 4: Mom places her ear against the wall, skeptical.

6. MOM: Well. This is an old house.

7. MOM: I'm sure all you heard was ***settling***--

Panel 5: Smash zoom -- Mom's eyes go wide as she hears:

8. SFX: ***skkrrtchh skkkkttcchhh***

THREE

Panel 1: BIG PANEL - Mom fires the shotgun at the wall as Peter covers his ears. An enormous HOLE and an accompanying cloud of sheetrock is blown out of it.

1. MOM: ***BACK!***

2. SFX: ***WHOOMM***

Panel 2: Shoot through the hole as a trepiditious Mom reaches inside the wall…

3. MOM: Come ***out*** where I can ***see*** you, you dirty mothe--

4. PETER (OFF): Mom! ***Bad word!***

5. MOM: Wait…

Panel 3: EXTREME CU - small panel - Mom's smile.

6. MOM: Well, ***hello*** there…

Panel 4: BIG PANEL - From the hole Mom removes a cute and utterly terrified BLACK KITTEN, no more than a couple months old.

7. MOM: How long have you been ***stuck*** back there?

8. KITTEN: *Mrrrrrrreeeww?*

9. MOM: My God. I can ***feel*** every ***bone*** beneath the fur…

Panel 5: Peter's delighted face as he picks up the kitten, nuzzles it to his face.

10. PETER: We -- we better ***feed*** him then … and keep him safe. Right, Mom?

11. KITTEN: *Pppprrrrrrrrrrrr*

12. PETER: I'll name him Blackie!

Panel 6: Mom smiles a weary but honest smile.

13. MOM: Original.

FOUR

Panel 1: Tight on a Marvel Calendar with MAN-THING as October's image. Peter has crossed out all the days but the last four.

1. PETER (OFF): It's … October twenty-seventh.

2. PETER (OFF): Five months … ten days to Dad's birthday.

Panel 2: WIDE ANGLE - They're in the aforementioned GREENHOUSE where Mom grows the food they eat -- she's currently cutting and trimming carrots, tomatoes -- and PUMPKINS, of course. Peter sits on the floor, holding the calendar. Leave room for back-and-forth dialogue.

3. MOM: Good. That sounds right to me.

4. MOM: You're doing great with numbers and reading, Peter.

5. PETER: H-A-L-L-O-W-E-E-N.

6. PETER: What's that, Mom? It's in the square for the thirty-first.

7. MOM: That's a holiday.

8. PETER: What's--

9. MOM: It's like, a day everyone can celebrate, together.

10. PETER: Like Dad's birthday?

11. MOM: Like that, but for ***everyone***.

12. PETER: What do you do on Halloween?

Panel 3: Angle outside the greenhouse, where a ¾-decayed zombie staggers about the lawn.

13. MOM (inside gh): Well… back, before the ***plague***, people dressed up and pretended to be somebody else to scare each other.

14. MOM (inside gh): They went from door to door asking for candy. "Trick or Treat," we called it.

Panel 4: Small inset: The zombie's foot steps toward a circular landmine. Ref: http://thoughtleadershipleverage.com/2011/11/what-are-the-landmines-you-need-to-look-out-for/

15. PETER (OFF): You did it, Mom? Dad too?

Panel 5: The zombie EXPLODES with the landmine in a shower of bones and gore.

16. MOM (OFF): When I was ***your*** age, sure…

17. MOM (OFF): I don't think they practiced it where your father came from, but when he got ***here***…

18. SFX: ***BOOOOOM***

FIVE

Panel 1: Mom picks Blackie out by the scruff of his neck from an empty flowerpot.

1. MOM: Oh! Hello.

2. MOM: Peter, you're going to have to be ***careful*** with Blackie.

3. MOM: Kittens like to squeeze into anywhere they'll ***fit***. You have to make sure he doesn't disappear on you or you'll be hunting for him ***everywhere***.

Panel 2: Peter holds up a length of green ribbon so Blackie can bat at it.

4. PETER: Mom, can I ask you a question?

5. MOM (OFF): You just did.

6. PETER: Can we celebrate Halloween?

7. MOM (OFF): Oh, I don't know about that.

8. PETER: Why not?

Panel 3: Mom works at a planter with a trowel.

9. MOM: Holidays are for a whole ***community***, and there's just us. It's a distraction, from trying to stay alive.

10. PETER (OFF): Are you saying if Dad was still here, we'd do it?

11. MOM: Not necessarily.

12. MOM: But Dad isn't with us because w-- because ***I*** got distracted.

Panel 4: Mom turns toward us -- large panel, but tight on her -- not quite yelling, but clearly agitated.

13. MOM: I… can't let that happen again. We've got to keep our ***focus*** on staying ***alive***.

Panel 5: Peter holds up Blackie.

14. PETER: But now we have Blackie! Now there are ***three*** of us again!

15. MOM (OFF): The ***number*** of us isn't really the ***point***--

Panel 6: Same shot: Peter holds Blackie close to him -- they both look at us with their wide, childlike eyes.

16. PETER: But it'd be ***fun*** to be somebody ***else*** for a day.

17. MOM (OFF): You're telling me. But we don't have that luxury.

18. PETER: Aw, Mom. ***C'mon.*** If we don't get to have any fun…

Panel 7: Mom considers these words with a haunted look.

19. PETER (off): …what are we staying alive ***for?***

SIX

Panel 1: The "Halloween" is circled on the calendar -- Oct 31 symbolized with a black cat arching his back.

1. MOM (OFF): Look what I found in the basement of this place -- hold still!

Panel 2: Peter stands in the center of the living room, not looking terribly thrilled to be wearing a kid's WOLVERINE costume: http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0023AWSHS/ref=asc_df_B0023AWSHS2100687?smid=A1UGGL17E0UZT3&tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=asn&creative=395105&creativeASIN=B0023AWSHS&hvpos=1o1&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=18977136719701457 80&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=

Blackie plays with the box at Peter's feet.

2. MOM (OFF): Here…

3. MOM (OFF): Ha! Perfect! What do you think?

4. PETER: ***This*** was for a ***hero?***

5. PETER (SMALL): You couldn't find a Spider-Man?

Panel 3: Small panel -- Mom beams with pride.

6. MOM: Not everyone would agree.

7. MOM: But he was always ***my*** hero.

8. MOM: Small and fierce.

9. MOM: Just like you.

Panel 4: Wide angle - living room - Mom's decorated it with Jack o'Lanterns from the garden, orange-and-black streamers, the drawing of a ghost or two. More back-and-forth.

10. MOM: I also found streamers … other decorations…

11. MOM: I even carved some jack o'lanterns from the greenhouse…

12. MOM: …and a real, live black cat. That's the best…

13. MOM: ***What?***

14. PETER: What?

15. MOM: Out with it. I can tell by your face. ***Something's*** wrong…

Panel 5: Peter, disappointed.

16. PETER: It's just…

17. PETER: You said there'd be ***candy***…

MORE

SIX, CON'D

Panel 6: Mom straps on the sniper rifle from Page One and prepares to leave.

18. MOM: *>sigh<*

19. MOM: Right. Forgot that.

20. MOM: I should be able to scavenge some in the ***Sam's*** two streets over.

21. MOM: I'll be ***right back*** -- save some bobbing apples for ***me***, okay?

Panel 7: Peter looks around for Blackie. Can't find him.

22. PETER: Okay. 'Bye, Mom.

23. PETER: Blackie, let's go play until…

SEVEN

Panel 1: Shoot from outside: Through the dropped square of glass, we see Peter's eye as he looks out and sees:

1. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): No

Panel 2: Reverse angle: Blackie has gotten out -- he's sitting on the ground amidst dead zombies, staring wide-eyed at us.

NO COPY

Panel 3: Peter (still in his Wolverine outfit throughout) puts one foot on the door outside to get Blackie to come back in; the kitten drops into a crouch.

2. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): Blackie

3. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): Come here, boy

Panel 4: The kitten bounds away from him -- and Peter chases after him in childlike instinct, both nearly missing an embedded landmine. He's holding a burlap sack to catch him with.

4. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): No

5. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): Wait

Panel 5: The door closes and LOCKS behind Peter as he goes!

6. SFX: ***klikkk***

EIGHT

Panel 1: ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - A blasted, post-apocalyptic suburb full of dead lawns and ramshackle one-story track houses.

NO COPY

Panel 2: Peter walks down the middle of the street holding the sack and wearing a Wolverine costume, he looks like the world's most depressing trick-or-treater.

1. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): Here here here here here

Panel 3: Reverse angle -- at the end of a cul-de-sac is a seemingly brand new house, reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's "Falling Water" (without the trees and water): http://www.fallingwater.org/

And here's the thing…

NO COPY

Panel 4: Small panel - …the LIGHTS are on inside!

NO COPY

Panel 5: CU - Peter is scared, but he doesn't know what other options he has.

NO COPY

Panel 6: Peter's hand reaches up and knocks on the strange door.

2. SFX: **nok nok nok**

NINE

Panel 1: BIG PANEL: A CREEPY OLD MAN in an old Victorian suit with a red goatee opens the door and looms menacingly down on Peter.

1. CREEPY OLD MAN: What is it? What do you want?

2. CREEPY OLD MAN: And why are you dressed so foolishly?

3. PETER: I'm -- It's Halloween.

4. CREEPY OLD MAN: What? No it isn't, you witless child.

5. CREEPY OLD MAN: The date is clearly ***Thirtieth*** October.

6. CREEPY OLD MAN: You're a day ***off***.

Panel 2: CU - Peter is, as one might suspect, rather intimidated by our Creepy Old Man.

7. PETER: Oh? I -- I sure I was right.

8. CREEPY OLD MAN (OFF): Well you're not. You were wrong.

9. CREEPY OLD MAN (OFF): It's All Hallow's ***Eve's*** Eve.

Panel 3: CU - scowling Creepy Old Man.

10. CREEPY OLD MAN: Which is a completely ***ridiculous*** idea for a holiday, if you ask me.

11. CREEPY OLD MAN: I much prefer what they call it in Detroit.

12. CREEPY OLD MAN: *"Devil's Night."*

Panel 4: Peter tries to keep the old man from closing the door on him.

13. CREEPY OLD MAN: Come back ***tomorrow*** with your tricking and your treating. And then -- I can ***help*** you.

14. PETER: But I'm not -- I'm looking for a cat.

15. CREEPY OLD MAN: A ***cat?***

16. PETER: A ***kitten***. His name is Blackie.

Panel 5: Creepy Old Man leans in and yells at us.

17. CREEPY OLD MAN: If you had any brains at all, you'd be more worried about yourself!

Panel 6: The door gets slammed in Peter's face.

18. CREEPY OLD MAN: Don't you know what ***happens*** on these streets at ***night?***

19. SFX: ***SLAMM***

TEN

Panel 1: A dejected Peter descends the steps.

NO COPY

Panel 2: Thinking of something else he turns back, toward the house.

1. PETER: Wait. Mister…

2. PETER: How long have you been out here?

3. PETER: Aren't you afraid of the…

Panel 3: Reverse angle - Where the house was is now a VACANT LOT surrounded by a chain-like fence.

NO COPY

Panel 4: CU - Peter is (understandably) FREAKED OUT.

4. PETER: …

Panel 5: A black blur suddenly dashes past in front of him, heading to another house!

5. PETER: ***Blackie!***

Panel 6: Peter pounces and runs after the short little black paws leaping off-panel.

6. PETER: You scared the heck out of me, you little…

ELEVEN

Panel 1: BIG PANEL - Too late, Peter realizes what he's holding in his hands is a snarling, red-eyed, partially decayed ZOMBIE BLACK SQUIRREL! http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_squirrel

1. ZOMBIE SQUIRREL: *HSSSSSSSSSS!!*

Panel 2: The squirrel sinks its jaws into Peter's hand and rips out a chunk -- fortunately, he just takes out cloth and stuffing from the costume's phony muscles!

2. PETER: *AAAAAAAAAHHHH!*

Panel 3: ZOMBIE KAROLINA DEAN (from the Runaways) swoops down and grabs Peter, swooping him into the air! http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karolina_Dean

3. KAROLINA (Z) Screaming meat.

Panel 4: Karolina opens her mouth for the kill.

4. KAROLINA (Z): My ***fave***.

TWELVE

Panel 1: Suddenly, ZOMBIE DARKHAWK appears, blasting Karolina, causing him to drop Peter.

1. ZOMBIE DARKHAWK (Z): Hey! Chillax, Karolina!

2. ZOMBIE DARKHAWK: Save some for the rest of the gang!

3. SFX: ***SHRAKKK***

4. ZOMBIE KAROLINA: Oh. Em. ***Gee.***

5. ZOMBIE KAROLINA: ***What*** is your ***damage***, Dorkhawk?

Panel 2: Peter drops to the ground below!

6. PETER: *Whoooaaaaa---*

Panel 3: Down below, in the basketball court outside an old high school, ZOMBIE METTLE (from *Avengers Academy)* smashes through the walls of an old WPA-era HIGH SCHOOL. http://marvel.com/universe/Mettle_(Ken_Mack)

7. ZOMBIE METTLE (Z, notes): *Mine **eyes** have seen the **glory** of the **gutting of the school***

8. ZOMBIE METTLE (Z, notes): *We have **eaten** all the teachers we have **broken every rule***

9. SFX: ***WHAM BAM MAAM***

Panel 4: ZOMBIE ALEX POWER of *Power Pack* and *FF* fame uses his Zero-G power effect (a glowing black outline -- see ref) to lift up a rusty DUMP TRUCK and SMASH it against the side of the building, caving in a wall. Reference gallery: http://www.comicvine.com/alex-power/29-21198/all-images/108-200991/alex_power___ff_5/105-1883878/

10. ZOMBIE ALEX (Z, notes): *We'll **broil** the super'tendent and **puree** the principal*

11. ZOMBIE ALEX (Z, notes): *The **youth** is marching **oooonnnn**!*

12. SFX: ***KKRRSSSHHHH***

Panel 5: ZOMBIE SQUIRREL GIRL, her arms and shoulders covered with slavering black zombie squirrels, looks on approvingly -- but does a double-take as she sees something dropping from the sky!

13. ZOMBIE SQUIRREL GIRL: Best.

14. ZSG: Mischief Night.

15. ZSG: ***Ever***.

16. ZSG: Hey…

THIRTEEN

Panel 1: ANGLE UP: SQUIRREL GIRL'S POV: Peter is plummeting down toward them!

1. SQIURREL GIRL (DOWN, Z): Alex! Mettle! Look!

2. SQUIRREL GIRL (DOWN, Z): Manna from Heaven!

Panel 2: LARGE PANEL - WIDE ANGLE - Alex entraps Peter in the black-and-white zero gravity power effect (see Alex Power reference, link prev. page) to arrest his descent, as Darkhawk and Karolina swoop down to join them.

3. ALEX: Well, well, well… what do we have here? ***Wolverette?*** *Heh heh heh heh heh*

4. PETER: C'mon, you guys -- lemme go!

5. KAROLINA: No fair! I saw him first!

Panel 3: Peter kicks and squirms but Alex has him fast. The other super-teens gather 'round.

6. ALEX: Let you go? Why would we do that?

7. METTLE: You're the first warm sack of organs we've seen in ages!

8. PETER: All I want -- I want to find my cat. Have you seen him?

9. PETER: His name is Blackie!

Panel 4: The super-teens have a huge laugh at this.

10. SFX: ***HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA***

11. SQUIRREL GIRL: Oh-- oh is he serious?

12. METTLE: He wants his pussy cat!

Panel 5: Peter yells at the super-teens.

13. PETER: ***Shut up!*** You guys are ***bad*** and ***stupid*** and that's why you're ***dead!***

14. PETER: You don't have any ***parents*** and ***no one*** loves you and you're hungry ***all the time!***

15. PETER: So you shouldn't be laughing at ***me*** just because I care about something other than ***myself!***

Panel 6: Alex tells the other super-teens to grab a hold one of Peter's limbs as he screams in protest.

16. ALEX: Well -- that put us in our place, huh guys?

17. ALEX: Each one of you -- grab a limb.

18. PETER: ***NNOOOO --NOOOO!!!***

19. ALEX: When I let go of my zero-g field…

20. ALEX: …***make a wish.***

FOURTEEN

Panel 1: BIG PANEL as a huge HOLE is blown in the chest of Alex Power -- blowing out his guts and rib cage and everything.

1. SFX: ***TOOOOOM***

Panel 2: REVERSE ANGLE - MOM is in the schoolyard, holding the smoking sniper rifle.

2. MOM: Here, baby.

3. MOM: Come to Mama.

Panel 3: Peter stabs Darkhawk through the eyeslit of his helmet with one of his plastic Wolverine claws.

4. DARKHAWK: ***Rraahhhh!! My eye!***

5. SFX: ***POKE***

Panel 4: Mom scoops up Peter in her arms as she sprints away from the rapidly approaching superteens.

6. PETER: I'm sorry mama I know I shouldn't have gone out you were right I shoulda watched Blackie closer I'm sorry he's gone and

7. MOM: Later.

Panel 5: Mom runs headlong to one of the undamaged walls of the high school.

8. MOM: You know what to do, right?

9. PETER: Hold my breath?

FIFTEEN

Panel 1: Mom, clutching Peter, PHASES THROUGH the rows of lockers on the other side of the wall! Hey, this lady has super powers!

1. MOM: Good boy.

Panel 2: BIG PANEL - ANGLE DOWN - But the floor is covered by BLACK ZOMBIE SQUIRRELS, entrapping mom and Peter in a corner!

2. SFX: ***Hsssssssssss***

3. PETER: *Ahhhhhhhhh!!*

4. MOM: Damn it…

Panel 3: The super teens zip around the corner, Karolina and Darkhawk flying.

5. KAROLINA: Nice job, Squirrel Girl. You're not as useless as you look. And sound.

6. KAROLINA: And ***act***.

7. SQUIRREL GIRL: Th-thanks, Karolina!

8. SQIURREL GIRL: D-do you think maybe I c-can ***eat*** with you now?

9. KAROLINA: *Pffff.*

10. KAROLINA: As ***if.***

Panel 4: Angle on the clock on one wall, above a smashed trophy case. It ticks toward midnight…

11. SFX: ***tk***

Panel 5: Kitty SHOOTS Mettle with a pistol (she has Peter in one arm so she can't use the rifle), but it deflects harmlessly off him.

12. SFX: ***BAMM***

13. MOM: Just -- take me -- let him go.

14. MOM: How can you eat ***all*** of us? You won't have any food left!

15. METTLE: I'm not sure if you can tell just by ***looking*** at us, lady…

16. METTLE: …but ***long-term planning*** ain't our ***strong suit.***

Panel 6: Tighter in on the clock, as the hands both point at 12.

17. SFX: ***tk***

SIXTEEN

Panel 1: A dark shadow falls between the rows of lockers of the high school as it steps around the corner of the hallway.

1. SFX: ***HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA***

Panel 2: Darkhawk and Karolina pause and turn toward this phantom.

2. DARKHAWK: Hey! Hey, come out here!

3. KAROLINA: Who to the eff are you?

Panel 3: Same shot as Panel 1: The dark figure of the Creepy Old Man steps towards us.

4. CREEPY OLD MAN: "Pleased to meet you.

5. CREEPY OLD MAN: "Hope you guess my name.

6. CREEPY OLD MAN: "What's ***puzzling*** you

7. CREEPY OLD MAN: "Is the ***nature*** of my game."

Panel 4: Page-width panel: Shoot from behind, with Creepy Old Man in center. Mettle advances menacingly from the left side of the panel; Darkhawk from the right. Be mindful of dialogue.

8. METTLE: Naw, what's puzzling me is how far I can ram this fist up your ***small intestine***…

9. METTLE: …before I ***yank*** it out and ***swallow*** the slimy tripe.

10. CREEPY OLD MAN: ***Children***.

11. CREEPY OLD MAN: It's a pity, really.

12. CREEPY OLD MAN: So few elders left to teach you the old ways.

13. CREEPY OLD MAN: The ***true*** ways.

14. DARKHAWK: The old ways are gone and forgotten, man.

15. DARKHAWK: That's ***why*** they're ***old***.

Panel 5: CU - Creepy Old Man grinning.

16. CREEPY OLD MAN: Tch.

SEVENTEEN

Panel 1: Zombie Darkhawk SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTS, to Karolina's horror!

1. SFX:	***FWOMMP***
2. DARKHAWK:	*GAAHHHHHHHH!!!*
3. KAROLINA:	*Double-U*
4. KAROLINA:	*Tee*
5. KARLONIA:	**EFF!!**

Panel 2: The Creepy Old Man looks at Karolina with his glowing eyes, and she is the next victim of shooting into flames.

6. CREEPY OLD MAN:	I have seen many threats to the ***human animal*** come and go in my years…
7. CREEPY OLD MAN:	…and though you remain among the most ***efficient***…
8. CREEPY OLD MAN:	…you are also the least ***imaginative***.
9. SFX:	***FWOOOOOOSH***

Panel 3: Mettle is the next victim; the COM transforms, becoming a RED BLUR…

10. CREEPY OLD MAN:	A mindless ***"Other,"*** not bound to any nationality or faith or sexuality or skin color…
11. CREEPY OLD MAN:	…politically ***acceptable***, because your hostility is so ***perfect***.
12. METTLE:	***YAAAHHH! BURNING -- ON THE INSIDE -- NNOOOOOOO!***
13. METTLE:	***IIII CANNN FEEEEL ITT--***
14. METTLE:	***I CAN FEEL MY HEART BOILING--***

Panel 4: BIG PANEL - COM transforms in his TRUE FORM of MEPHISTO to set Squirrel Girl and all her companion zombie animals afire! http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mephisto_(comics)

15. MEPHISTO:	By ***The Fallen***.
16. MEPHISTO:	How you ***bore*** me.

EIGHTEEN

Panel 1: Mephisto points at Mom, who cowers back against the lockers, clutching Peter.

1. MEPHISTO: ***Katherine Pryde.***

2. MOM: Stay -- stay away from him --

3. MOM: I know -- you only spared us -- to claim him --

Panel 2: Mephisto comes near Peter, grinning.

4. MEPHISTO: There are so few souls ***left*** on this world, I can hardly be blamed for ***preserving*** those whom I still might ***corrupt***…

5. MEPHISTO: …particularly ***this*** night, my own ***feast*** day, for countless millennia of ***All Hallows' Eves***.

6. MOM: I'll never -- I'll never let you have him!

Panel 3: Mephisto grins.

7. MEPHISTO: So ***all mothers*** say.

8. MEPHISTO: And ***countless*** are the women's souls I've ***acquired*** in their misguided efforts to make the words ***stick***.

Panel 4: Mephisto draws himself up, clutching his cloak around him.

9. MEPHISTO: Remember this day, Peter Rasputin Pryde --

10. MEPHISTO: -- or should I say ***Piotr***, after your blessed metal ***colossus*** of a father--

11. MEPHISTO: --and when I ***next*** come to you, and make you an offer to our ***mutual*** benefit…

Panel 5: Same shot: Mephisto disappears in a cloud of red smoke and brimstone.

13. MEPHISTO: …you will have ***sympathy*** for what I did for you and your mother this night.

NINETEEN

Panel 1: Establishing shot of Kitty & Peter's house.

1. KITTY: Whew.

2. KITTY: That's one way to spend an evening.

Panel 2: Peter gets weepy as he and Mom enter the living room.

3. PETER: *>snrffl<*

4. KITTY: Hey, hey, hey, brave little guy!

5. KITTY: What's the problem? We ***made*** it -- like I always tell you, we'll ***make*** it.

6. PETER: But why? Why does it matter…

7. PETER: …if in the end, I'll just go with ***him***.

Panel 3: Kitty crouches down by Peter, holds him by the shoulders.

8. KITTY: Hey, now. Listen to me.

9. KITTY: Nothing's predetermined, okay? ***Nothing***.

10. KITTY: Especially not ***him***. You've got choices.

Panel 4: Kitty pulls the Wolverine mask off Peter so she can dry his tears.

11. PETER: Did ***Dad*** end up with him?

12. KITTY: Dad? Are you kidding?

13. KITTY: He walked right past Old Man Scratch like he wasn't even there.

Panel 5: Angle on photo on the wall -- COLOSSUS and KITTY PRYDE in their X-Men outfits, posing together in front of the X-Men School.

14. KITTY (OFF): Your father was the best and the most noble person I ever knew.

15. KITTY (OFF): And up until the very end he believed things would get better. That there was end to this plague, and humanity would make its way back.

Panel 6: Kitty wipes away Peter's tears with a tissue.

16. PETER: Do … you believe that?

17. KITTY: I…

18. KITTY: I believe this is ***Halloween***.

TWENTY

Panel 1: CU - Kitty smiles.

1. KITTY: Where the dead are with us in ***spirit***. Not just in ***rotting flesh*** like they are every other day.

2. KITTY: That means your father's ***here***.

3. KITTY: Can you feel him?

4. KITTY: And so I ***believe***.

Panel 2: Kitty nods at a jack o'lantern across the room.

5. KITTY: I stumbled across a ***present*** for you when I was on my back here, discovered you were gone.

6. KITTY: Why didn't you go take a look.

Panel 3: Peter peers inside the pumpkin, and his face lights up.

7. PETER: Oh -- Mom! Mom! Thank you!

Panel 4: Peter hugs his mother.

8. KITTY: Sure. Anything, kid.

9. KITTY: I couldn't find any candy at Sam's, though. Sorry.

10. PETER: I don't care.

Panel 5: BIGGEST PANEL ON PAGE: ANGLE DOWN: Curled up and sleeping INSIDE the jack is Blackie the Kitten!

11. PETER (OFF): I have everything I need.

12. BLURB: *HAPPY HALLOWEEN from*

13. CREDITS